

Mike Lyddiard

15th December 1941 to 3rd March 1999



EPITAPH TO LOVE

So cold,
As if I too, were in Flanders' clay
Beneath those fields of grief
and pain
There lies our love from dawn
to endless dawn,
There lie our children never to
be born.
All of our tomorrows and castles
in the air
Dead and buried as if they
never were.

So cold,
No more to know your lips
'gainst mine
As we two in ecstasy combine,
Emptiness is all I feel and all
I see,
Where you once were, but now
can never be,
And though I weep, my tears
are all in vain,
Neither they, nor love will bring
you back again.

©Mike Lyddiard 1999

We have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Mike, our Director, on 3rd March. As many readers will know already, Mike died while staying at Talbot House, Poperinge. The funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Wendover, on 11th March. Many members came to say their farewells and to express sympathy and support to Mike's wife, Ruth, and their children Rachel and James.... and we are sure all members echo that.

Mike was Director from November 1993, and was reappointed for a further five years last November. During his first three years in that post, the Toc H Chairman was Mary Edwards, who worked closely with him. We asked Mary to write about Mike, and her appreciation is on page 3, but we know that many others would have been more than ready to pay their tributes to him.

Since he met Talbot House, Poperinge, and the battlefields of Flanders, Mike wrote many poems about that experience. He was writing these until shortly before his death, and the final part of the funeral service on 11th March was a tape-recorded reading, by Ruth, of one of them which was previously unpublished. We are grateful to Ruth for agreeing that we may print it in Point 3.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Mike Lyddiard - an appreciation.

An evening with Pam Ayres.

News from Toc H India.

An Eid party in Bradford.

Toc H

Toc H is about people. Founded in 1915, Toc H works to break down barriers between people by challenging their prejudices about others and the divisions which exist in society. Its work is based on Christian principles, and people of all faiths, and of none, are welcomed.

Toc H works with people from all walks of life, tackling social problems such as loneliness and deprivation through an approach which emphasises self-help, and encourages people to accept responsibility for themselves and their local community.

Toc H uses the model of the compass to offer four personal challenges which are the inspiration for its members.

These 'Four Points of the Compass' are set out on page 2.

Our Vision is of a Movement
'Building better communities by reaching out to all in friendship and service, confronting prejudice, and practising Christian values'.

Toc H is a registered charity No 211042.

INTERIM MEASURES

Rather than rush into decisions after Mike's death, the Central Executive Committee feels it should consult about the way forward. While this happens, Ken Prideaux-Brune has agreed to co-ordinate the necessary functions and authorise necessary decisions. This will be an honorary role, and very much part-time: Ken will be in Wendover just one day per week, and will not be accepting any speaking engagements.

This is a temporary measure and will be under continual review by the CEC. The consultation has already started, at the Regional Officers Conference at Alison House on March 12/14th, and will be carried forward at Regional level.

STAFF NEWS:

ROGER GILES, Development Officer in Division 1, leaves the staff at the end of March. We thank him for his hard work and wish him well in his new work as Centre Manager of the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre at Skegness.

JOHN BURGESS has come safely through major surgery following his car accident last year. He is now convalescing at home and doing well.

Thank you from all the staff at Central Services

We would like to thank everyone who has been in touch with us here since we heard the tragic news of Mike's death on 3rd March. Your support has been tremendous and all your letters, phone calls and visits have been greatly appreciated and have helped us through a very difficult time. Thank you.

We have been receiving many donations in memory of Mike - some of them we have not been able to acknowledge because we have no address but we are extremely grateful for each and every one. Again, thank you.

The Four Points of the Compass are:

1. Friendship - 'To Love Widely' - to welcome all in friendship,
2. Service - 'To Build Bravely' - to give personal service,
3. Fairmindedness - 'To Think Fairly' - to listen always to the views of others and to find one's own convictions.
4. The Kingdom of God - 'To Witness Humbly' - to acknowledge the spiritual nature of man, to practise the Christian way of life, and to help the truth to prevail.

Point 3 is the magazine of Toc H. It takes its name from the 3rd Point of the Toc H Compass, 'Fairmindedness'. It seeks to inform, to encourage and to stimulate.

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A full copy of the current editorial policy is available on request from the Editor.

The opinions expressed are those of the individual concerned and not necessarily the views of the Editor or of Toc H.

While Point 3 is made available to all members free of charge, voluntary contributions are welcome.

The Editors reserve the right to cut or précis articles and letters submitted unless the writer specifically stipulates otherwise.

Printed on chlorine-free, environmentally friendly paper.

60 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Austen Williams, former vicar of St Martin's in the Fields in London's Trafalgar Square, returned to the church in January for a service celebrating his 60 years as a priest. Austen has always insisted that it was Toc H that played the major part in his discovery of his vocation to the priesthood. He lived in a Toc H Mark in London in the 1930s. In 1940, by now a priest, he was part of a team of four people, led by the then General Secretary, Rex Calkin, who went out to Belgium to ensure that Talbot House served members of the new British Expeditionary Force, as it had served their predecessors. The speed of the German advance overwhelmed them

and they were captured.

During his 28 years as vicar of St Martin's, Austen achieved national recognition as a regular broadcaster. He developed the crypt of the church as a centre for homeless people and made a regular Christmas appeal for this work on the radio. He preached at the Memorial Service for Tubby Clayton, held at St Paul's Cathedral, and his continuing love for Toc H was recognised by the inclusion in the service this January of an adapted form of the Toc H prayer. Peter Ellis, Laurie Tuckey and Ken Prideaux-Brune represented Toc H at the service and conveyed to him our congratulations and good wishes.



Changes to the administration of the Khasdobir project

Since it was started in 1983, by Peter East and his friend Harun Ahmed, the unique project in Khasdobir, on the edge of the town of Sylhet in Bangladesh, has drawn much of its funding from contributions made by Toc H members and branches. And throughout that period Toc H Central Services has administered the fund entirely free of charge. In these difficult times, however, with a much smaller staff at Wendover, this simply can't continue, and the small Friends of Khasdobir group, which is responsible for fundraising and general oversight, is now taking over the financial administration. The Friends of Khasdobir will, of course, remain very much part of Toc H; it will simply, like any branch, be taking full responsibility for its own life and work.

What does this change mean for you?

- Please send your contributions to: Ken Prideaux-Brune, 13 Hollybush Lane, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 6EB. He is now responsible for banking the money and submitting an annual account to Wendover.

- Please continue to make cheques payable to: Toc H Friends of Khasdobir.
- Please send any changes of address, or changes of branch representative, to: Ian Pearce, 65 Norreys Avenue, Oxford OX1 4ST. Ian, formerly fundraiser for Toc H, will be maintaining the Friends of Khasdobir address list.
- If you pay under Deed of Covenant, by Banker's Order, you need do nothing. Your Deed is with Toc H and Toc H must account for it, so the administration of Deeds of Covenant will remain with Toc H and the Friends of Khasdobir will pay a small amount to cover the cost.
- Otherwise, as has always been the case, the money you send will all be going to Bangladesh.

Friends of Khasdobir has pledged itself to send the project £24,000 during the coming year, confident that you will ensure that this is possible.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

Welcome to our New Members

Josephine Harris - Corwen

Joan Curtis, Nettie Etheridge, Maureen Morling, Betty Turner, Henry Turner - Elmstead Florence Allday, Samuel Bennett, Valerie Burrows, Betty Evans, James Murphy, William Thomas, Alice Watling - Llandrindod Wells

Beryl Monelle - Newport

Pauline Hobbs, Ethel Rose - Parkhurst

Marjorie Rostron - Southport

Ray Murlison, Colin Renwick - Tyne & Wear
Mrs D Barlow, Paula Batten, Shan Hoare - Winsford

Guest Members

Naeed Aftab, Suzanne Booth, Mrs B Brown, Robin Brown, Jenny Collinson, Peter Cooley, Joan Hannah, Doreen Lawson, Dorothy Leeson, Mohammed Maskin, Mollie Monks, Mohammed Naseem, Angela Newell, Rose Pickersgill, Diane Piuk, Victor Pluk,

Mrs N Simpson, Gladys Wooler, Emily Young, John Young - Division 1
Wilfred Makinson - Division 2
Jean Douglas, Paul Douglas, Alexandria Hadkinson-Dunn, Kaye Newman, Charles Wharam, Eileen Wharam - Division 3

Welcome to 49 New Members

MIKE LYDDIARD AN APPRECIATION

Mike's sudden death, at an unseemly young age, has come to Toc H as a most shattering event, just as he was embarking upon a second term of office as our Director. To me it is particularly numbing and poignant. It is now apparent that, as Chairman of the Central Executive Committee 1992-96, I was sharing with him in the challenges and problems of the Movement for more than half of his time with us.

Others will have their own memories and impressions of Mike but I am writing of Mike as I knew him.

My "journey with Mike" began at his interview at Cuddesdon House on 3rd March 1993. He knew little of Toc H at that time but such was his gift of listening to people, relating to folk from all walks of life and retaining what he had heard, that he quickly became infected by the spirit of Toc H. He thrilled to the Movement he called "wonderful". The familiar words of The Charge "See to it then that nothing keeps your light from shining out clearly in the sight of all...." as presented to him at the final meeting of the 1993 CEC at Alison House when sponsored for Membership by John Mitchell and Alan Johnson, were a challenge which Mike accepted and fulfilled so wonderfully during his relatively short period of membership.

An ambassador for Toc H

We asked Mike in particular to support the membership and to publicise the work of Toc H. He revelled in this brief. From the outset of his term of office he became the ambassador of the Movement. He toured widely, visiting all sections of Toc H, meeting members and sharing in all aspects of the Movement's work. He established two key phrases which seemed to him to emphasise what the Movement stood for. Toc H was "doing the doable and doing it extraordinarily well" and that if his audience didn't believe

him then they should "come and see what I see". He had a unique talent for interpreting the various expressions of Toc H to wide and diverse audiences.

Mike was a skilled presenter of facts and very fond of funny stories and jokes with which to illustrate his talks. He was gifted at tailoring his message to the time-slot allowed on the programme and (every Chairman's dream) never disrupted a



The "Upper Room" at talbot House.

programme by overrunning! He was also very widely read and his choice of readings at Morning Prayers at Central Services was always a very individual one but precisely right for the occasion.

Mike was always looking for ways in and through which to advertise Toc H and particularly excelled during our 80th birthday celebrations in 1995 by promoting the first Toc H Public Lecture, given by Lord Owen aboard HMS Belfast. He also took every opportunity to get into the correspondence columns in the national press on topics of current concern.

His private 'journey'

For all his extrovert activity on behalf of Toc H, Mike was essentially a very private man. Talbot House and all that it meant had become very important to him. As he describes in his book '*Only Remembered*' written in 1998, the impact of his first visit made during his induction period and the

tour of the Ypres Salient had an instant and powerful effect. He so much valued the opportunities for peaceful reflection which short visits to Talbot House were subsequently to provide. He found comfort in the peaceful surroundings, the opportunity to reflect and the renewed physical energy which these breaks provided to recharge his spiritual batteries. The introduction to his book provides a prophetic prediction. "There are questions, so very many questions, to

which I am seeking answers before time runs out on me whenever that may be". Sadly for us that date can now be written - 3rd March 1999 - and it is greatly significant that Mike died at Talbot House having gone to seek restful recuperation and quite possibly some more answers!

As his "mentor" in Toc H, I have shared many hours with him over many concerns. I have appreciated the motivation and inspiration of a man who was a deeply committed Christian and whose devoted service of time and talent has meant so much to the cause of Toc H.

Mary Edwards

In a moving address at Mike's funeral, a long-term friend, Robert Swann, spoke of what Toc H had meant to Mike. He said... 'Michael dedicated 26 years to the Church of England Children's Society. After a brief interlude with UNICEF he joined Toc H and it is with Toc H that he found something for which he had been searching, unknown to others, for a long time. He found a spiritual home and the tranquillity that most of us seek. He found it at Poperinge and the battlefields he visited, latterly, so frequently and he always departed refreshed and with a sense of inner peace. It is fitting that it was at Poperinge that he found the ultimate peace...'.

AN EVENING WITH PAM AYRES

The idea sounded worth exploring, if perhaps a little dull; arrange a lecture in the South West during Toc H week, to be given by a local celebrity. Dutifully I set off for the local library, compiled a list of well-known personalities living in the area, and wrote to the first of them: Simon King, celebrated wild-life photographer. Two months later hopes were dashed - Simon was committed to a busy filming schedule for the foreseeable future. But then came news that Pam Ayres had been enquiring on her Sunday afternoon radio show about Toc H. 'Who are we?' she had asked. 'What do we do, and why?' The opportunity was too good to miss, so I wrote to Pam asking if she would help us.

Less than a week later I received a telephone call from Dudley Russell, Concert and Theatre Producer, and also, I learned later, Pam's husband. Yes, Pam would be delighted to help, but not with a lecture. Her wish, rather, was to stage a special show in support of Toc H, raising, if possible, two or three thousand pounds for the Movement. Within days the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton, was booked and plans were in full swing. Few of us in the region were able to believe our good luck. Here was a level of support beyond anything we'd dreamed possible.

Nearer the time there was work for me to be doing - visits to the theatre to discuss arrangements; letters to local newspapers and radio and television stations as well as to potential sponsors; a promotional display and programme for the evening to prepare; even a recorded telephone interview for local radio

Orchard FM! Then it was down to Pam, and what a treat she gave us - an evening packed with humour and sheer good fun royally entertaining a theatre packed to the rafters. And for those who had paid a bit extra there was the added bonus of meeting Pam informally after the show, to discover that her wit on stage is matched by an equal warmth and graciousness in person.

There was still more to follow, for Pam had asked me on the night to send her further information about Toc H so she could give us a plug on her radio programme. Sure enough, a week later, two million people across the country heard Pam give an enthusiastic endorsement of our



Pam Ayres with Nick Fawcett and Pam Bishop, S.W. Region Events Co-ordinator

Movement, urging people to get involved, and offering a phone-in number to anyone wanting to find out more.

On behalf of Toc H I would like to express our thanks to the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton, for their support in staging the event, and above all to Pam Ayres and Dudley Russell for so generously making the evening possible. Not only has it helped generate much needed revenue and publicity for Toc H; but, equally important, it brought a lot of happiness to a lot of people on a night we will long remember.

Nick Fawcett,
Chaplain, Division 2

MONMOUTH? WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MONMOUTH

Division 2 Development officer, Barry Englefield, writes about a new initiative aimed at young people in Monmouth.

The Monmouth Toc H Action Group (MONTAG) are working in partnership with local residents and the Monmouthshire Youth Services. Under the umbrella name of the Monmouth Youth Project they are seeking to establish a Young People's Café. Research among young people and parents in the area has shown that young people have nowhere to go. This has led to a growing number getting into trouble with the Police.

Monmouth is a market town and also a commuter town for Cardiff and Newport. Though prosperous, it also has major problems. Drug-taking, especially heroin, and under-age drinking are issues identified by the Police, the Council and professional agencies.

The main aim of the Youth project is to establish a Young People's Café.

This would provide a safe meeting place for young people at times appropriate to them, encouragement and support for them to manage the cafe, and an information point for activities and services.

Recent publicity in the Monmouthshire Beacon resulted in a professional fundraiser who lives locally offering her expertise to put together a Lottery Bid. Preliminary discussions indicate that the premises, staff and operating costs could cost up to £200,000. Fifteen months ago there was £70 in the bank - today there is £16,000 with promises of a further £5000 when the Café opens. The Project is now in a position to take on premises and start to generate interest among the young people. Currently three local schools are being approached to promote the project and begin to interest the young people. Professional staff from Youth Access, Gwent Drug Project and Gwent Alcohol Project have all expressed an interest in working with the project.

SHOPPING IN WALLASEY

The North Wales and North West Region ran a short-term charity shop in August. The venue was Wallasey on the Wirral, and members felt it was a real success. During the week in which the shop was open, over £600 was raised, £500 of which has been sent to central funds.

Darrell Christie reports: 'It was very hard work. The mountains of donated goods had to be transported (in pouring rain) to Wallasey from all corners of the Region, sorted and priced, ready for sale. A monumental task.'

The shop was open from Monday to Friday and trade was brisk. The ladies from Wallasey carried the brunt of it, being there every day, but with welcome help from volunteers from Liverpool and Southport. Darrell says that their energy and commitment were inspiring, and it was a pleasure to work with them. 'And where,' he asks, 'will the next one be?'

EID PARTY IN BRADFORD

Penny Weynberg and Diccon Lowe of STROTGW Branch, together with members of the Division 1 staff team, attended an Eid Party in Bradford in February. The invitation came through Mohammed Saleem Khan, recently welcomed into membership, and the venue was the Council for Mosques Elderly Day Centre, in Great Norton. Stuart Wroe, Division 1 Fundraiser, takes up the story.

'Following Ramadan, a month of fasting, what could be more appropriate than a blow-out in fine style. Clutching my Eid gift of a box of colourful sweets it was good to be welcomed into the party where there were many familiar faces, and many more new ones.'

'We were introduced to a number of important people from the local community. These included Mr Gulam Rasool, Vice-Chair of the Bradford

Council for Mosques, who seemed most interested in the partnership Toc H were forging with the Day Centre and the range of activities we were encouraging. These include a development of the Sole Survivor activity undertaken at the Centre late last year, a children's play project in the Spring, a project at Brixworth Park and an Interfaith weekend at Colsterdale.

'Most important, though, was the food! As guests we were invited to take our places and were served by members of the Centre. They had prepared many fine dishes of delicious and wonderfully hot meat and vegetable curries, chapatis, savoury rice, and a sweet dish which included cherries and candied fruits. After the meal Mr Rasool recited a brief verse from the Koran and we were then

entertained with traditional songs.'

'I would like to thank Mr Rasool, Saleem and all our friends at the centre for their kind hospitality, and we look forward to working together with them for a long time yet. If any reader would like to get further involved in this area of practical interfaith work, contact any of the Division 1 staff team'



Saleem (right) talking with (left to right) Penny, Diccon and John Dunwell

ECUMENISM IN INDIA

The Choolaimedu Branch of the Toc H (India) Trust organised the annual Ecumenical Carol Service at Chennai this year. The service was held at the Roman Catholic Church, and brought together various denominations including the Bedastha Baptist Church, the Marthona Syrian Church and the Salvation Army.

The special feature was the inauguration of the Toc H Youth Violinists group of the Choolaimedu Branch. The Christu Natya Dance centre, from Madras, sang Carnatic lyrics of Vedanayagam Sastriar, in Tamil.

The three-hour Carol Service ended with the Ceremony of Light and the benediction.



The Youth Violinists group of Choolaimedu Branch.



Margaret and Ron Dunwell with the picture presented by members of OATLANDS BRANCH and RIPON GROUP to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.

The branches in MELTON MOWBRAY wrote to tell the local paper of the good year they had had in 1998. Fundraising activities included the annual bazaar, the Christmas Lights market stall, flag days, coffee mornings etc. This had enabled the members to provide a variety of services to the community. The wheelchair loan scheme was much in demand; birthday cards and gifts were given to every pupil at a local special school and a local home for the elderly; Easter gifts were given to patients in two local hospitals and seven care homes; elderly local people and those with disabilities had enjoyed trips to Skegness and, together with Melton Lions and Rotary, Toc H had provided the premises and 25% of the costs of the Christmas Parcels Fund. Other branches please note - local papers DO sometimes print this sort of news!

IN BRIEF

BUCKINGHAM BRANCH'S float won third prize in the Buckingham Christmas Carnival. Large numbers of people lined the route and saw Toc H's 'Hansel and Gretel' (see picture) which had been created by Sylvia Woodward. After the event, Hansel and Gretel's wooden 'house' was donated to a local school and gratefully received.



On a sunny February day, seven members of STROTGW BRANCH trekked to Heptonstall Churchyard (near Halifax) to tidy up some forgotten and neglected First and Second World War graves. In conjunction with the Commonwealth

War Graves Commission, the branch has undertaken to look after eight graves in this small village, as well as a number of others elsewhere in West Yorkshire. They report it was hard work, but very satisfying and well worth the effort.



Fiona Norton hard at work on the grave of Alfred Sunderland

LETTERS

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Let's Bring It To A Close With Dignity

Thousands of Toc H members attended the Birthday Festival in 1948. Wherever we went in central London we would see groups of members from all over the country and abroad. Toc H was a prime mover in many initiatives. Many voluntary organisations exercise the care and compassion practised by Toc H. Many good projects were started by Toc H and then handed over.

I came to the conclusion some time ago that the task of Toc H has been completed. As the Director, Mike Lyddiard said in his message in January: 'We are in difficult waters'. We will not survive the financial problems without a much larger membership, and that's not likely. Peter Sutton in his letter (Point 3, February) suggests separate charities to cover various forms of our national service, like Friendship Circles. They would do their own fundraising, and this could be worth considering. Those involved with the excellent work with charity shops, like the amazing one at Kempston, would still be able to continue with their local charity work.

I suggest we consider bringing the Toc H movement to a close in a dignified manner, rather than let it fade away. We need to lift the burden from the few who are working so hard to keep Toc H going (like Mary Edwards and Daphne Dawes in this

area). Toc H has a brilliant past, one to be justly proud of, so why not wind it up with a great Service of Thanksgiving in London? The spirit of Toc H will live on in the lives of those who wish to continue 'to leap with joy to any task for others'.

I do not write this lightly, having been a member since 1938.

Ray Goodway

Shirehampton, Bristol

Christian Values

The word 'value' also means: 'the worth, desirability or utility of a thing'. And worth means quality and benefit, among other things. One has to put this in perspective in that 'Tubby' Clayton was a Christian. He took Christ at his word and put into effect what he taught and practised. I suggest that Diccon Lowe (Letters, November Point 3) reads St James's Epistle in modern language and then looks at Our Lord's summary of the Commandments. He then, like many others, Christians and non-Christians, will not simply condemn the principles and other ghastly mistakes that Christians have committed, but will join the ranks of those who peacefully endeavour to spread Christ's Kingdom in the world.

The sad thing is that many Christians forget Our Lord's command to 'Do this in memory of me', that is, attend the service he invented, but do practise everything he suggests;

while other Christians forget what Jesus asked us to do but never, ever miss out on their regular Holy Communion and even wrangle over who should do this and that in their church.

Padre C A Cardale

Totnes

Two Challenges

I was greatly inspired by two challenges in the December Point 3. The first was from Mike Lyddiard, who challenged us to believe in Toc H and the need for it, and to 'go forward as one body'. The second came from Terry Brown in his discussion of Christian values. He pleaded with us not to be deflected from practising the values we cherish by fruitless argument over whether others can share and practise them with us. I am helped by the thought that the Church did not reject the four (pre-Christian) Cardinal Virtues - Wisdom, Courage, Justice and Temperance (self-control) - but reaffirmed them. Having done that, however, it went on to interpret their scope in the light of Faith, Hope and Love, the three Christian Virtues, and so transformed and enriched them. It is well to remember that Jesus did not come to destroy but to fulfil. For me, Toc H has always been not a negative but a fulfilling movement.

Glyndwr Williams
Bangor.

OBITUARIES

In December

Philip Chenappa	S E Region
Stanley Evans	Brandon
'Eddie' Farley	Ashby de la Zouch
Mrs I L Gilbert	Ashby de la Zouch
Jean Hall	Huddersfield
Winifred Harris	Enfield
Mary Holmes	Bracknell
Derek Whitehead	Birmingham District

In January

Walter Clements	Wellingborough
Margaret Hawke	Oatlands
John Jones	Wellingborough
Lydia Lloyd	Cheltenham
Ida Monson	Wolverhampton
Leslie Phillips	Burraton
Phyllis Phillips	Barton on Humber
Emily Sullivan	London District
Edna Young	Peterborough
Margaret Young	Lyme Bay

In February

William Brown	Buckley
Peter Driver	Leeds & Craven
'Robin' Dunford	Birmingham District
Margaret Horley	Late Luton
Maurice Hubbard	Broughton Astley
Charles Knight	Cirencester
Irene Robson	Alison House
Edgar Speed	Milford on Sea
Lorraine Tucker	S E Region

In March

Terence Lewis	Buckingham
'Mike' Lyddiard	Central Services
Mary Raven	S E Region
Joan Towell	Milford on Sea
Not Previously Recorded	
Eric Burrows	Llandrindod Wells
Lydia Draper	Milford on Sea
Wilson Kedwards	Alvechurch
Derek Norton	Tavistock

TRIBUTES

CHARLES KNIGHT, who died in January was a member for many years in Cirencester. Always a helpful presence both at work and in his other activities, he was known and respected by many. He played a large part in branch social and fundraising life and his parodies of the activities of members will be long remembered. He was branch treasurer for many years. PT

IDA MONSON, who died in January was a dedicated member of Wolverhampton Women's Branch. She was always in office, either as Chairman or Jobmaster. We shall all miss her joyful spirit very much. MW

ARTHUR EDWARDS, who died in January aged 88, was the longest serving member of Maidstone-Swan Joint branch. He joined before the War, and was a keen and enthusiastic member. His positive attitude and approach to life impressed all who knew him or met him. He will be remembered by us all with much affection. NB

LESLIE PHILLIPS came to Toc H on the death of his wife, and found fellowship and help in his loss. He soon joined and became a good friend to us all, and a thoroughly fine member of Toc H. Sadly missed by us all. JDE

EMILY SULLIVAN, of the former Richmond Jt Branch, died in January, aged 78, after much suffering. She was a faithful member of her church, the Royal British Legion and of Toc H, being branch chairman for a period. She helped at the Royal Star and Garter Home for over 60 years, and held an award for collecting for the Legion. She will be sadly missed. PAI

ERIC BURROWS, who died suddenly in September, had been a faithful member of Llandrindod Wells branch since 1986. He cheerfully took on many jobs such as arranging speakers, running quizzes and music programmes, serving on local committees (e.g., the CAB) and being involved in all branch activities. He is irreplaceable and sadly missed, and will be long and affectionately remembered.

MARGARET BURGESS, who died in November aged 88, was a dedicated member never missing a meeting or event if she could possibly get there. She joined in the '60s via Colchester Branch, and in 1973 moved to Clacton and the Ladies branch and was very active until a few years before her death. Among many jobs, she cooked 80 meals a day for the lunch club, visited many bereaved women, and, when she could no longer cook for the club, helped meals-on-wheels. She also served as Warden at Talbot House with her husband Harold. A generous and much loved member who, in everything she did, tried to live by the 4 Points of the Compass. MT

JOHN JONES, of Wellingborough Branch, had been a member since 1951. He was a true Toc H man who not only helped the branch in its many jobs and activities, but also did a lot of work helping individuals and very rarely making it known. He is missed by all our members. BE

WALTER CLEMENTS was a member of Wellingborough Branch since 1946. He took part in many Toc H activities, and he held

office as Secretary and Jobmaster of the branch, and District Pilot, until ill-health prevented him. He was much involved in the local Disabled Club where, despite his own ill-health, he acted as an 'able-bodied helper'. 'Wally' was always there for advice and help to any individual and will be missed very much by us all. BE

LILY DEANE, who died in January, joined Bitterne Ladies Branch in 1992 and became a true Toc H member. She attended regularly, and threw herself into our activities with great gusto. Although quiet and reserved, she was a willing worker, a cheerful giver, and was well loved by her family and all in the branch. Thank you, Lil - we all miss you very much. NG

IRENE ROBSON was well known in Toc H. She and her husband Alan were members of the Balsall Common Branch until they went out to staff jobs in Germany. They returned to England to take up the posts of Warden and Housekeeper at Alison House in 1979 and remained there for seven years. Irene was very popular with all guests. She always made time to talk to them however busy she was, and greeted everyone with a smile. MB

WITH PROUD THANKSGIVING.....

We are indebted to the Rev Hugh Potts for sending to us the following:

A Roman observer of an early Christian burial wrote: If any righteous man among the Christians passes from this world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God, and they accompany his body with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another nearby.

DEREK NORTON, who died in September, was a member in Tavistock. He joined in the late '40s, at Plympton. While in the Royal Navy Derek spent time in Hong Kong and joined the Kowloon Branch, helping at the local Shatin Babies Home and with street shelters. Derek's warmth and cheerfulness were much appreciated, as were his wise advice and thoughtful ideas. His Christian faith shone through it all and he will be greatly missed. It was a privilege to have known him. CES

STANLEY (JIMMY) NEILLY, who died in January, met Toc H as he awaited demob as a Commando. He joined Tottenham Branch where he held every office, and started a Mobile Library at St Ann's Hospital. He also served on Toc H's Literary and Publicity Committee and the committee that ran the annual Toc H Sports in Battersea Park. He served three terms as Central Councillor and two seasons as Warden at Talbot House. During teacher-training he linked up with Berkhamsted Branch and finally moved to Hemel Hempstead, where he served for 34 years until his death at the age of 80. RB

STANLEY EVANS, of Brandon Branch, died in January. He was widely travelled, very learned and a founder member of Toc H in Gibraltar. DW

WINNIE HARRIS, a long serving member of Enfield Women's Branch, died suddenly in December at 90. She also attended East Barnet Branch and retained her interest in Toc H until she died. DD

W. ALYN BROWN, who died in February aged 92, was a member of Buckley Branch since 1947 and served as Chairman and Pilot until, due to family commitments, he resigned in 1958. He was a committed Christian and believer in the aims of Toc H, and eventually rejoined in 1990 and was an active member. He will be sadly missed not only by the branch, but by many people in the area. GE

EMILY MARY HOLMES joined Toc H in Birmingham when she was 17 and then became a mainstay of Binfield and Bracknell Branch from 1954 until her death in December, aged 87. We will always remember her for her determination to help others and to make a difference (however small), for the encouragement she gave us all and for being a friend. We will miss her greatly. SJ

ARTHUR ELSE, who died in January aged 89, was for many years secretary of Preston branch to which his wife Ethel also belonged. Between them they gave years of unstinting service. Arthur pioneered hospital visiting at Whittingham Mental Hospital with weekly slide shows. Arthur never lost his zest for life, was loved by many, and will be greatly missed. NY

LYDIA (BABS) DRAPER, who died in November had been a valued member of Milford-on-Sea branch since 1980, and had served as Secretary and Chairman. For a number of years she was a key helper in the Toc H Mother and Toddlers' group until her health prevented this. She also helped regularly at the branch's weekly luncheon for local people, and the regular entertainment for disabled people from a nearby Club.

EDGAR SPEED also of Milford-on-Sea, died peacefully in February aged 91. Despite very poor sight, Edgar was determined not to give up, and said, 'with the help of God I can still live a useful life'. Every Friday, promptly at 9.0 a.m., he was at the Church Hall to help set up for the weekly lunch. He was a committed Christian and his life was an example to us all. He is greatly missed by his friends.

JOAN TOWELL, who joined Milford-on-Sea in 1983, died in January aged 84. Until her health began to fail she was a regular attender at meetings and always a willing helper.

R.G. (ROBIN) DUNFORD, who died in February at 75, came to Toc H via LEPRO. He first met leprosy work while with the RAF in Rhodesia, and from 1947 to 1959 worked for LEPRO in Nigeria and Cameroon. From 1959 to 1966 he was a regional organiser for LEPRO in the UK, and joined Toc H during this time. He served on the CEC in the 1980s, always supported initiatives with younger people, and most especially backed Friendship Circles. The existing Circle in Birmingham (well represented at his funeral) is there because of his untiring efforts in the early days, and he also served as Chairman of the then national 'Friendship Network Committee', in which role he offered huge support to all involved in Circles. Robin bore his final years of illness with great courage, and will be much missed.

NOTICE BOARD

Toc H Week 1999

will be from 11th to 18th September. All branches, groups and members are asked to join in by holding some sort of event.

There will be support from Central Services in the form of an information pack and support materials. These will be sent to branch and regional secretaries but if any other reader of Point 3 wishes to help, please write to the Director at Central Services.

Let's make it even better than Toc H week 1998! (and that was pretty good)...

So, What are YOU going to DO ??????

and if you have some brilliant new idea - write to us at Point 3 and tell us!

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION

Will all branches and members who support the Khasdobir Project please read the article on page 2.

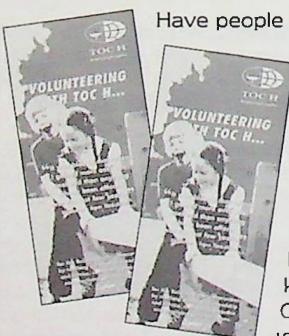


OPEN DAY AT THE RICKMANSWORTH ACTIVITY CENTRE

Date: Sunday August 1st - Time: 11-0 a.m to 8-0 p.m. BBQ and party. All welcome - drop in for a bit or come for it all. The day will include an official 'opening' with local dignitaries.

For more details, contact Chris Stoneham on 0181-270 5742.

1999 EVENT PROMOTION



Have people in your locality heard about our exciting 1999 programme? Do local schools, colleges, JobCentres, volunteer bureaux and other places know what a variety of opportunities we offer?

Do your grandchildren know? Or your children? Or your parents? If not, tell them!

Tell them to look at the new Toc H website : www.toch.org.uk

Or give them a flyer or the list itself. There are still stocks available.

To get supplies, contact your Regional Event Co-ordinator either direct or via Central Services.

WALKING IN THE TROSSACHS

Toc H in Scotland are planning a walking weekend in the beautiful Trossachs area. The aim is to encourage new people to be involved in Toc H, so the event is being advertised in a national 'outdoors' magazine. We also hope people in Toc H who enjoy walking will join us to develop friendship with the other walkers.

The event is at the Boyd Outdoor Centre at the Port of Menteith from Friday 30th April to Sunday 2nd May. Cost £16 - self-catering.

If interested contact Bill Cowie on 01475 521000.



CAN YOU HELP?

Luc Inion, a Belgian member of Toc H, is currently researching the backgrounds of soldiers of the Great War, and some of the Second World War, who rest in Dozinghem Cemetery, near Ieper. The cemetery is adjacent to Luc's family home and thus he has a particular interest. It may be you have relatives or know of families who have a connection to this cemetery in some way. If you have any information that might help Luc in his research, please write to him at:- Frere Orbanstraat 141, B 8400 Oostende, Belgium.

EAST ANGLIA AREA DAY

Saturday 5th June - from 10-30 a.m. to 3-0 p.m.

Venue: St Mary's R.C. Church Hall, Woodbridge Rd, Ipswich - ample parking.

Refreshments provided - bring your own packed lunch.

Main speaker will be Trudie Charles from the Families under Pressure Scheme in East London.

All members, volunteers and friends welcome.

For more details contact Grace Mosedale on 01394 284512.

CALLING ALL MARKSMEN

We are trying to contact as many former residents in Toc H 'Marks' (known as 'Marksman') as we can. If you were a Marksman, or know someone who was, please tell us. We want to enlist their help in contacting a wider range of people who enjoyed the experience of a Toc H Mark. We wish to hear of those experiences and to update them on what Toc H is doing today. We hope that some who felt Toc H helped them when young may now wish to help Toc H. Just write to John Mitchell, Editor, c/o Toc H Central Services.